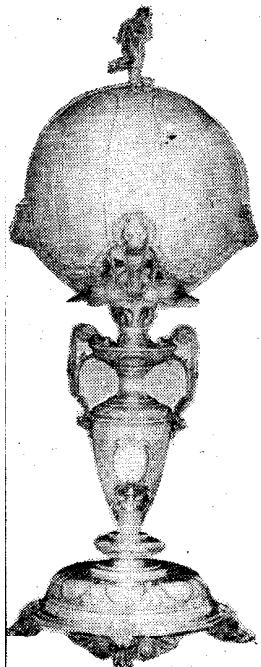


Hardwick sent off as . . .



WYCOMBE GO THROUGH — WITH 10 MEN

Friendly tonight

WYCOMBE have fixed up a friendly match against Hellenic League side Abingdon Town at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday). Their side will be made up of a mixture of first and reserve team players.

The Blues are without an anthem League match on Saturday and look set to have a free day. The Reserves are at home to Camberley Town in a Suburban League match.

STEVE Hardwick was sent off following a second half flare-up as Wycombe Wanderers scrambled through the first round of the F.A. Trophy by the narrowest of margins at Cheltenham on Saturday.

The bearded defender received his marching orders in 52nd minute after throwing a punch that felled Cheltenham striker Norman Pemberton — right under the nose of the referee, who had no option but to show him the red card.

Hardwick, clearly incensed that the referee had not awarded a free-kick after an apparent foul by Pemberton, took the law into his own hands — and at the same time gave Cheltenham a golden chance to pull off a cup shock.

Reshuffle

Although Wanderers had dominated the play until that stage, the scoreline was still 0-0 when they were reduced to ten men. It is to the great credit of the other players that Wycombe snatched the

winning goal and then held on under intense pressure.

Hardwick's departure caused a complete reshuffle in their defence. Paul Birdseye went into the centre of the back four, Jimmy Jacobs moved to right back while Terry Scott slipped back to mid-field.

While the players were still becoming accustomed to their new roles, Cheltenham sensed their chance and only a fine finger tip save by Gary Lester from the dangerous Alan Ollis kept Wycombe on level terms. This led to the Southern League team's first corner of the game in the 55th minute.

Ten minutes later Mike Keen replaced Gary Toll with Steve Long, whom many thought should have been on from the start. Certainly, from the moment Long appeared on the scene Wycombe were a rejuvenated outfit and within three minutes had taken the lead.

Long had something to do with it as well. Following a jinking run through the defence, he unleashed a shot which goalkeeper Tim Harris could only turn round the post for a corner.

Mick Holifield sent the corner kick to the near post, where Bobby Davies (taking over Hardwick's role) back-headed it across goal for Terry Glynn to nod over the line.

Wicked

Wycombe were jubilant but they knew their weakened side would have a battle to hold on and Cheltenham, inspired by former Luton apprentice Ollis, stormed forward and twice in a minute went desperately close to equalising.

Skipper Jock Mackenzie, the former Wycombe player who had a quiet match, unleashed a 20 yard shot which bounced wickedly just in front of Lester. The goalkeeper did so well to deflect the ball over the bar.

From the corner, Chris Gardner rose above the defence to head past Lester. But luckily for Wycombe, there was Bobby Davies clearing the shot off the goal-line. Thereafter they were rarely troubled again.

Wycombe would have saved themselves a lot of anguish had they capitalised on their chances in the first quarter of the match.

Forcing four corners in the first ten minutes they looked as if they would overwhelm their opponents. With Howard Kennedy regaining his touch in mid-field, Wycombe forced numerous openings.

Jacobs forced the goalkeeper to tip a shot over the bar while Toll and Glynn went wide of the target from good positions. Hardwick was causing as many problems as the forwards and saw two direct headers well saved by Harris, and another shot blocked.

Cheltenham, on the other hand, relied solely on the stylish Ollis who forced one good save from Lester.

Hardwick's dismissal brought them back into the game, but eventually it was the ten Wycombe heroes who put their side into the last 32.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, H. Kennedy, J. Jacobs, M. Holifield, T. Glynn, T. Scott, G. Toll (sub: S. Long 65 mins).

Referee: J. F. Pardoe (Kidderminster).
Half-time: 0-0. **Scorer:** Wycombe — Glynn (68 mins).
Attendance: 862.